

Impromptu Discussion Leads - GESE Grade 9

Grade: GESE Grade 9 (CEFR B2.3)

Time: 40 minutes

Aims:

- ▶ To practise developing and organising thoughts quickly and clearly
- ▶ To be able to speak fluidly and confidently on an unprepared topic
- ▶ To be able to persuade and/or discourage

Exam Task Focus:

- ▶ To communicate with some spontaneity and engage in extended conversation by giving clear descriptions and expressing and explaining views on most general subjects
- ▶ To handle interruptions by using recovery strategies
- ▶ To take the opportunity to use the language functions listed for the appropriate grade

Resources:

- ▶ Impromptu cards

Procedure

1. Use the discussion topics provided in the workshop or prepare your own based on current topics in the news.
2. Cut up the discussion topic strips on the handout provided and put them in a hat. Ask each student to draw one strip out of the hat for his or her discussion.
3. Put the students into pairs (A and B) and tell them that they are going to take it in turns to lead a short impromptu discussion on the topic they have drawn out of the hat. First, A will lead a discussion on their topic and then B will lead on theirs. They should each include, as much as possible, the information on the card.
4. Be clear that when they are leading the discussion, they are not going to give a one-sided presentation; they are instead going to talk about the subject and invite some comments from their partner. The person with the topic strip should do the majority of the talking but they will need to include their partner in the discussion. That partner should give short responses, ask for clarification if needed, show interest and ask a few questions during the discussion.
5. Give students very limited time to prepare (2–5 minutes) before taking it in turns to lead their impromptu discussion (up to 5 minutes) on the topic.
6. After the students have led their discussions, give them time to talk together about the experience.



Dreams and nightmares – GESE Grade 9

personal experiences	anecdotes	meanings of dreams	importance
recurring dreams	content	emotional response	symbolism

Crime and punishment – GESE Grade 9

common crimes	punishments	legal system	effectiveness
protection	reduce risk	community service	name and shame

Technology – GESE Grade 9

everyday uses	positive aspects	negative aspects	over-dependence
inventions	impact	generation gap	future gadgets

Habits and obsessions – GESE Grade 9

examples	causes and cures	personal	family
friends	bad habits	annoying habits	phobias

Global environmental issues – GESE Grade 9

global warming	shortage of fuel	drought	rising seas
effect of flooding	effect of heatwaves	predictions	threats

Design – GESE Grade 9

architecture	different periods	different styles	fashion
state-of-the-art	innovations	landmarks	style vs function